

I am writing to express my support for the above referenced petition. I am especially distressed by the current philosophy toward amateur licensing which appears to be driven only by opportunities for creating a customer base for radio appliances. "Dumbing down" the license requirements (as has occurred continuously over the past 30 years) flies in the face of the fundamental reason to be for the amateur service - that is maintaining a core of capable radio operators that could be called upon in a worst case scenario. Under those circumstances, God forbid, more than the ability to memorize answers from a license guide, and to press the "on" button and start talking will be required. If higher order skills and abilities are not maintained, it will be difficult to defend the amateur service as anything more than a customer base for expensive electronic gadgets.

/s/ John Roland

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